

DICKENS ON EDUCATION.

Science of "One Atom" of Useful Knowledge... The winter session of the Midland Institute was inaugurated in the Town Hall, Birmingham, England, on the 27th ult. Mr. Charles Dickens, as president of the institute, delivered the following opening address. Mr. Dickens said:—

layer, who, being in temporary reverses through the illness of his family, had consequently been obliged to part with his best clothes; and being therefore missed from his classes, in which he had been noticed as a very hard worker, was persuaded to attend them in his working clothes. He replied, "No, it was not possible. It must not be thought of. It must not come into question for a moment. It would be supposed, or it might be thought, that he did it to attract attention." And the same man being offered by one of the officers a loan of money to enable him to rehabilitate his appearance, positively declined, on the ground that he came to the institution to learn and to know better how to help himself, not otherwise to ask help, or to receive help from any man. (Applause.) Mr. Dickens then went on to combat at considerable length the assertion that this is a material age, and thus concluded:—

So, too, of Mount St. Elias in our new territory of Alaska. Heights of 15,000 and 17,000 feet have been claimed by travellers, and soberly put down in books for this grand old volcano. But the measurement of Sir E. Belcher, which is the highest put forth by any one of respectable authority, claims only 14,370 feet for it, and other observers make it much lower. The mountain has really never been accurately measured.

Thus stands the case in the Pacific coast States and Territories. Of the coast mountains in California, no one rises above 5000 feet, that being the figure for Anacapa Grande, Mount Diablo, so conspicuous an object in the country about San Francisco, is but 3857 feet high.

Coming east to the Rocky Mountains, Colorado, which holds the highest peaks of that range, has four mountains which are probably certainly between 14,000 and 14,500 feet each. There Long's, Gray's and Pike's Peaks, and Mount Lincoln. Dr. Parry, of St. Louis, has made the most reliable measurement of the Coloradoian Heights; but since one of the barometrists which he depended upon for the calculations was stationed at St. Louis, there was some liability to error even in the most accurate of his figures. He measured the lower of the two Gray's Peaks, and made it 14,251 feet. The other, to which he endeavored to give the name of Torres del Paine, but which the people of Colorado call by its twin in the same name of Gray, is evidently from one to two hundred feet higher, but has not been accurately measured. Pike's Peak is reported by Dr. Parry at 14,216 feet, and by Fremont, who ascended it, at 14,300 feet. Mount Lincoln has never been accurately measured, though often ascended. It is more likely to be lower than higher than Gray's Peaks. Dr. Parry did not succeed in reaching the summit of Long's Peak, but made an approximate measurement, which he reported at 14,035 feet. But this last season the first successful ascent of the majestic mountain was made by Professor Powell and Mr. Byers, of the Rocky Mountain News; and their measurement, the first reliable one ever made, gives the figure of 14,293 feet. The New York Nation, therefore, showed more presumption than knowledge, when it undertook to criticize Mr. Bowles, in his "Switzerland of America," for not being more exact in reporting the heights of the leading mountains in Colorado. The Nation says "the ought to have known that Long's Peak was 14,506 feet," which, in fact, nobody did or could know outside of the Nation's office.

There are numerous other peaks in Colorado of 13,000 feet and upward. Among these are Mount Anselmo, Volcan Peak, Mount Gnyol, and Parry's Peak; while there are ten, eleven, and twelve thousand feet in height in every where about in the central portions of the territory. To the west of the peaks, constituting the dividing range of the continent, lies a huge mountain known on the maps as Sopri's Peak. It seems, both from the summits of Gray and Lincoln, to be still higher than those. It never has been measured, and though its apparent superiority may arise from the comparative lowness of the peaks directly around it, the people of the West are not without their possible right to claim for Colorado the highest mountain peak in the United States, the highest actual measurement of Sopri's Peak shall decide it against them.

WONDERS OF THE WEST.

The Highest Mountains in the United States.

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